

REMARKS

Claims 2-5, 7 and 8 are rejected; claim 6 is objected to as being allowable if rewritten in independent form; and claims 9-20 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate therein the recitation of claim 5. Claim 5 has been canceled.

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Claims 2-5 and 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,725,375 to Fujii et al.

Applicants traverse, and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider in view of the amendment to the claims and the following remarks.

The fluoroalkylcarboxylic acid derivative of amended claim 2 is represented by the general formula (ii):



wherein n1 is 0 (zero).

On the other hand, Fujii et al discloses the following compound:



wherein u is an integer of 1 to 4 (see generic compound in col. 3, line 36, first anionic surfactant wherein Rf is defined in lines 65-66; specific example in col. 4, Table 1, line 59-60).

However, Fujii et al does not disclose a fluoroalkylcarboxylic acid derivative which is represented by the above general formula (ii) wherein n1 is 0 (zero).

Therefore, the two compounds have different structures, such that the amended claims define novel subject matter.

Further, there is no apparent reason which would lead one of ordinary skill to modify the compound of Fujii et al to arrive at the presently claimed fluoroalkylcarboxylic acid derivative.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are not anticipated by Fujii et al, and withdrawal of the foregoing objection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested. Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of claims 2-4, 6, 7 and 8 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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